

## Jesus' Teaching On Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

*(Matthew 6:9-15 NASB) "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.' 14 For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive other people, then your father will not forgive your offenses."*

### I. Overview of The Lord's Prayer

- a. After emphasizing the value of a personal prayer life, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. In Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer, the disciples specifically ask Jesus to teach them to pray. This is profound because, despite witnessing His miracles and the power of His ministry firsthand, they recognized that the true key to His powerful ministry was a life deeply rooted in prayer and intimate connection with The Father.

*(Luke 11:1-4 NASB) "It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." 2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation.'"*

- b. We can approach the Lord's Prayer as a model that reveals God's nature, His kingdom, and the essence of effective prayer. Rather than being a ritualistic recitation, the Lord's Prayer serves as a framework that leads us into a deeper connection with God. Scripture calls us to 'persist' in prayer (**Luke 18:1**), 'be devoted' to prayer (**Colossians 4:2**), and 'pray continually' (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**). To live out this calling, we must grow in prayer so that it becomes both a source of joy and an effective practice in our lives.

*(Matthew 6:9 NASB), "Pray, then, in this way..."*

### c. Outlining Jesus Teaching on Prayer in **Matthew 6:9-15**

- i. Cultivating a Right Perspective of God – *"Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed by Your name"*
- ii. Praying For God's Glory
  1. Praying for God's Kingdom to Come – *"Your kingdom come"*
  2. Praying for God's will to be done – *"Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"*
- iii. Praying For Personal Needs
  1. Praying for Daily Provision – *"Give us this day our daily bread"*
  2. Praying for forgiveness – *"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"*
  3. Praying for Deliverance from Evil – *"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil"*
- iv. The Weight of Unforgiveness - *"For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive other people, then your father will not forgive your offenses."*

## II. Cultivating a Right Perspective of God

*(Matthew 6:9 NASB) "...Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name"*

- a. Jesus begins by addressing God as **"Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name"** establishing His authority, His intimacy, and His holiness. In Jewish thought, God was primarily understood as a transcendent Creator and King who is majestic, sovereign, and set apart. Jesus expands this understanding by emphasizing that God is also a loving Father, both transcendent and deeply present with His people.
- b. The way we view God profoundly shapes how we interact with Him in prayer. The facets of His nature and identity give depth and dimension to our prayers. When we truly understand and believe that God is our Father, Provider, Sustainer, kind, good, all-powerful, etc. it transforms not only how we approach Him, but also how we see ourselves in relation to Him. To grow and persist in prayer we need to a biblical perspective of God.

*"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." - A.W. Tozer*

*(Jeremiah 9:23-24 NASB) "This is what the Lord says: "Let no wise man boast of his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast of his might, nor a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let the one who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises mercy, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord."*

*(John 17:3 NASB) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

- c. In prayer, we can ask God to reveal His name, His character, and nature to us and to shape our hearts to revere Him rightly. The phrase **'hallowed be Your name'** means to acknowledge and honor God's nature as holy, set apart, and worthy of our highest respect. This prayer is not just about recognizing His holiness but also asking that our lives reflect His glory, aligning our hearts with His will and magnifying His name in all we do.

*(Ephesians 1:17-19 NASB) "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might"*

## III. Praying For God's Glory

*(Matthew 6:10 NASB) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

- a. **Your Kingdom Come** - God's Kingdom is the 'realm' where His will is fully obeyed and His glory is actively displayed. It is not merely a physical location but a present reality where God's authority is acknowledged, His righteousness is upheld, and His manifest presence dwells. While the principles and power of His Kingdom are already accessible to us, at His second coming, Jesus will return to establish the fullness of His literal and physical Kingdom on earth. In that day, His rule will be fully embraced through obedience, justice, and the complete revelation of His glory.

*(Matthew 4:17 NASB) "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

*(Matthew 12:28 NASB) "But if I cast out the demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*

*(Revelation 11:15-16 NASB) “Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” 16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,”*

- b. **Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven** - God's will, the desires and purposes in His heart, are perfectly fulfilled in heaven, where all things operate in complete obedience to His will. It is God's intention to unite heaven and earth under His perfect leadership, and He will accomplish this in the ages to come. However, as His image-bearers on earth and co-heirs of His Kingdom, we are entrusted with the responsibility to pray for His will to be done right now on earth as it is in heaven. This involves surrendering our own will to God, trusting in His sovereign plan, and aligning our hearts with His divine purposes.

*(Revelation 21:3 NASB) “And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,”*

#### IV. Praying For Personal Needs

*(Matthew 6:11-13 NASB) “Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”*

- a. **Daily Bread** - Jesus taught us to pray for ***“daily bread,”*** not for monthly or yearly provisions, highlighting the importance of cultivating a continual (daily) dependence on God's provision. Just as we feel hunger daily, we are invited to come to Him daily, trusting in His abundant riches and limitless resources. Each day, we can ask for His provision, confident that He is faithful to meet our needs and provide for us in ways that reflect His generosity.

*(Matthew 7:9-11 NASB) “Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11 So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*

*(Philippians 4:19 NASB) “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

- b. **Forgiveness** – the prayer about forgiveness concerns both our relationship with God and others, highlighting the importance of forgiveness. A forgiven heart becomes a forgiving heart, this is evidence of true transformation in the believer's life. Forgiveness is not merely about justification, but also about sanctification, the ongoing process of cleansing from sin's effects. This principle extends beyond our personal relationship with God; it influences how we interact with others. Our interactions with God should shape the way we treat those around us, reflecting His grace and forgiveness in our daily lives.

*(Ephesians 4:32 NASB) “Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

*(Colossians 3:12-13 NASB) “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.”*

- c. **Deliverance from Evil** – *“Pre-temptation prayer”* is a request for God's help to avoid and overcome temptation before it arises. While God does not tempt us with evil, He allows trials to refine us. Temptation often involves intensified demonic attack, personal weaknesses, and circumstances that foster sinful behavior. Through prayer, we can reduce our vulnerability and align ourselves with God's character. Prayer, therefore, becomes a proactive measure that helps us stand firm against temptation and stay spiritually alert.

*(James 1:12-15 NASB) “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 No one is to say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.”*

*(Ephesians 6:10 -13 NASB) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”*

#### V. The Weight of Unforgiveness

*(Matthew 6:14-15 NASB) “For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive other people, then your father will not forgive your offenses.”*

- a. Unforgiveness carries a heavy burden, not just for the one who is wronged, but also for the one who refuses to forgive. Jesus teaches points out that our forgiveness of others is directly tied to God's forgiveness of us. If we withhold forgiveness, we block the flow of God's mercy in our own lives, creating a barrier between us and Him. The weight of unforgiveness manifests in bitterness, anger, and broken relationships, which can fester and poison our hearts.
- b. In the parable of the unmerciful servant (*Matthew 18:32-35*), Jesus warns that unforgiveness leads to severe consequences, as the servant who was forgiven a great debt fails to extend that same mercy to others. Similarly, Paul urges believers to rid themselves of bitterness and to forgive just as God forgave them, highlighting the emotional and spiritual weight that unforgiveness can impose (*Ephesians 4:31-32*).

*(Ephesians 4:31-32 NASB) “All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

- c. Unforgiveness allows the enemy to gain a foothold in our lives (*2 Corinthians 2:10-11*). Unforgiveness not only damages our relationships with others but also hampers our relationship with God (*Matthew 5:23-24*). The weight of unforgiveness is ultimately a burden that stunts our growth and hinders our ability to live freely in the grace and peace of God. Forgiveness, however, brings liberation and healing, restoring our relationship with God and with others, as we choose to release the offense and walk in the same mercy that has been shown to us.

*(2 Corinthians 2:10-11 NASB) “But one whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did so for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”*

*(Matthew 5:23-24 NASB) “Therefore, if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”*